

## House Republican Press Release

June 14, 2005  
Press Office: 860-240-8700

### **Rep. Hovey: Legislation Sets Uniform Standards for Endorsement Filings for General Assembly Candidates**



A measure to establish uniform standards for filing endorsement certificates for candidates for the Connecticut General Assembly that will help prevent errors similar to the one that almost prevented state Representative DebraLee Hovey from appearing on the ballot last year as the endorsed Republican candidate for the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly District has received final legislative approval.

The measure (House Bill 6669), which is awaiting final action by Governor M. Jodi Rell, will require endorsement certificates for candidates for the state House of Representatives and the state Senate from both single and multi-town districts to be filed with the Office of the Secretary of the State.

Currently, endorsement certificates for General Assembly candidates from single town districts must be filed with the Town Clerk's Office. In the case of multi-town districts such as the 112<sup>th</sup>, which includes Monroe and part of Newtown, endorsement certificates are supposed to be filed with the Secretary of the State's Office in Hartford.

"Last year, after I was endorsed, the Chairman of my convention turned my paperwork into the town clerk's office in Monroe rather than to the Office of the Secretary of the State. Unfortunately, our town clerk was on vacation at the time and the assistant town clerk assumed my endorsement certificate had been properly filed. By the time the oversight was discovered, the filing deadline had passed and the Secretary of the State's Office refused to recognize me as the endorsed Republican candidate," Representative Hovey said.

"Even though I had been legally endorsed at my convention, a technical error caused by the lack of uniformity in the endorsement filing requirements for single and multi-town districts almost prevented me from running as the official Republican candidate for the 112<sup>th</sup> District last year," Representative Hovey said. "We had to take the Secretary of the State's Office to court to get my name placed on the ballot on the Republican line. It meant time, effort and resources that should have been spent on my re-election campaign instead were wasted on a court battle that should not have occurred."

“Campaigns for the state House of Representatives and the state Senate are run by volunteers – not paid political consultants and lawyers,” Representative Hovey said. “To avoid honest mistakes caused by state election procedures that can be confusing and inconsistent, we should make the process as uniform, concise and easy to understand as possible. This legislation standardizes the endorsement certification filing process for all General Assembly candidates and will go a long way toward preventing snafus like the one that affected my campaign last year.”